Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 /062 W

-----011140 089122/20

R 011020Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9705 INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY RANG KN 6056

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 4593

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR, BM, CA SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL--POSSIBLE CANADIAN INTEREST IN PROVIDING AIRCRAFT FOR BURMA

REF: A) STATE 15290 (NOTAL) B) RANGOON 0287 (NOTAL) C) RANGOON 0581

1. IN EMBOFF CONVERSATION WITH CANADIAN SECOND SECRETARY JAMES JUNKE ON FEB 21 PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR BURMA, JUNKE SHOWED INTEREST IN POSSIBLE SALE OF CANADIAN-BUILT AIRCRAFT TO GUB, BUT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT CANADIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPLY AIRCRAFT TO BURMA AIR FORCE ON ANYTHING OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL TERMS BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES TO THEIR POSSIBLE USE IN COMBAT AGAINST INSURGENTS. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT JUNKE NEVERTHELESS RAISE ISSUE WITH AMEMBASSY RANGOON DURING HIS TRIP TO BURMA.

2. ON FEB 22 CANADIAN COMMERCIAL OFFICER CALLED EMBOFF TO SAY THAT JUNKE HAD MENTIONED BURMESE INTEREST IN CANADIAN AIRCRFAT TO HIM. HE CONFIRMED JUNKE'S INITIAL REACTION THAT CONFIDENTIAL.

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AIRCRAFT, EVEN IF DESIGNATED FOR NARCOTICS USE, COULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE SUPPLIED UNDER CANADIAN AID PROGRAM. HE STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONCERN EXPRESSED BY CANADIAN AID OFFICIALS AT TIME TWIN OTTERS WERE GIVEN TO UBA THAT THE AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE TURNED OVER TO THE BURMA MILITARY RATHER THAN BE USED ON UBA FEEDER FLIGHTS. GUB DID, HOWEVER, PURCHASE TWO OF THE TWIN OTTERS, SO COMMERCIAL

OFFICER THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE GUB MIGHT BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH THE \$4.5 MILLION PURCHASE PRICE FOR A BUFFALO.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BANGKOK DOES NOT HAVE BENEFIT OF REFS A AND B AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT REPEATING THEM TO US IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: NARCOTICS CONTROL--POSSIBLE CANADIAN INTEREST IN PROVIDING AIRCRAFT FOR BURMA

TAGS: SNAR, BM, CA, (JUNKE, JAMES)

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